

FISH TRAPS FAIRLY LINE NORTH SHORE

A Visitor Is Amazed by the Forest of Dead Poles Arising Out of the Waters of the River

Probably few people in Astoria realize what a vast number of fish traps there are in the waters of the Columbia along the North shore. Three or four hundred of these fish traps there are, it is said, and the poles used in their construction give the appearance somewhat of a dead forest. For miles along the shore there is nothing to be seen but these fish traps, and one is moved to wonder how any of the salmon ever make their way through. The business of catching the fish in the traps is carried on in a manner that is little short of stupendous, if one is to judge by the thousands of poles that go to make up the hundreds of traps. Entirely aside from the economic side of the question, this forest of dead poles arising out of the water give rise to other considerations. To one who loves the beauties of the waters, the waters either in their calms or in their wrathful storms, the presence of these dead poles strike on the senses almost as a desecration. They mar, and give no touch of beauty, or of picturesqueness. But of course in an age that is purely utilitarian an objection of this nature cannot even find listeners to give it respectful attention. That they are a constant and gravely dangerous menace to the lives of the hundreds of drift net fishermen is an objection that will hardly receive any greater attention, for in an age that is merely utilitarian the lives of a few fishermen more or less means nothing to those who would line their pockets with the gold that comes from the annual fish harvest. But there is another objection. Some of these fish traps are abandoned, and in the course of months and in the course of years many more will be abandoned. Yet when a fish trap is abandoned its numerous piles are not pulled up. They stand there to mar the seascape, stand there as a daily and nightly menace to the very lives of the fishermen who drift with their nets, and it may be that many of them will be standing there for the next half century. The great state of Washington has no law which requires an owner of a fish trap to remove it when he is done with it. Those piles may stand until they decay at the top, and still their lower portions, preserved in the fresh water, will be there to tear the bottoms out of boats, to destroy nets, and as a general shame to the government which permits such a thing.

Several days ago a representative of the Astorian had the good fortune to make a trip around the waters of the mouth of the river, with Mr. Ole J. Settem, the water bailiff, in his patrol boat. Mr. H. G. Van Dusen, for many years the master fish warden of the state, also was a member of the party, and under Mr. Settem's guidance the trip was made a wonderfully interesting one. It is the water bailiff's duty to keep a close watch on the fishing in the river to see that the regulations are not broken and this trip was one of his regular patrols. Outside of the fishermen and those others who make their livings on the waters, there are probably many in Astoria who have only a faint idea of all that is going on out on the river during the annual fish harvest, and least of all do they have a comprehensive idea of the appearance of things there. To the writer of this "story" it was all new, and the impressions herein set down are not those of one who pretends to have the slightest technical knowledge of the fishing industry.

There seems to be reasons inherent in the fishing waters why the fish traps have never become common on this side of the river, and, further to deter their use, Mr. Van Dusen is said to have discouraged their construction as much as was reasonably possible during his incumbency in office. There are a few on the Oregon shore; also there are several abandoned ones. It seems that recently the state of Oregon passed a law making it obligatory on the owner of a trap to pull up the piles when he abandoned it, but the law was not made retroactive, and hence those traps on this side that had been abandoned previous to the passage of the law still stand in the waters, and are likely to stand there for many years to come, a danger to all fishermen and others, and a shame to someone.

traps should be forbidden by law, as having a tendency to utterly destroy the fishing industry. The traps "work" night and day. They permit no intervals for some of the fish to get by and reach the head waters. From an economic standpoint it seems to be a case of slowly killing the goose that lays the golden eggs; and they also have a tendency to permit the business being gathered into the hands of the few. On the north shore the law provides that the traps should extend out into the water only a certain distance, but it is ludicrously evident that the law is being violated. Recently the master warden of the state of Washington constructed a trap for the purpose of catching fish for hatchery purposes, and this state trap extends far out beyond the line permitted by the state law. With the state officials setting the example, it can readily be guessed how apt the others will be to follow suit. If there were no traps all the work done by them would have to be done by individual fishermen, and it is to the interest of the "poor man" who makes his living out of the waters that there should be no traps. All seem to agree that the time must come, when all methods of fishing save by drift nets will be prohibited, and in the meantime the slaughter of the fish goes on.

Mr. Settem guided his little boat to Sand Island. There the seiners were at work and it is an interesting sight to watch the big seines pulled in, with the patient horses tugging at the ends. The horses were fat and in good condition and seemed to enjoy their work, though up to their bellies in the surf at times. They say that the horses get to know just how to properly handle the seines and get to like the work, though when the water is very cold rheumatism is apt to bother them.

On this day a heavy mist covered all of the water, and it was hardly possible to discern objects more than a few hundred feet away. Nevertheless there was a sort of beauty about it all, a misty, hazy, beauty that was very real. Little river craft glided by, silently, like creatures of the mist. One of the big bar tugs swung at anchor in the channel, looming up spectrally.

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When public endorsement is made by a representative citizen of Astoria the proof is positive. You must believe it. Read this testimony. Every backache sufferer, every man, woman or child with any kidney trouble will find profit in the reading.

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CHINESE ATTACKED BY 'FRISCO POLICE

AMAZING TALE IS TOLD OF BRUTAL OUTRAGES IN THE BAY CITY.

WERE SCORE OF ASSAULTS

Affidavits Declare That Chinatown Police Squad is Responsible For All the Uncalled For Persecution—Chinese Merchants Make Protest.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 24.—A most amazing tale of brutal outrages, prolonged through a period of more than six months, is told in a document that will be filed to-day with the Board of Police Commissioners by Attorney Grant-Carpenter in the interests of the Chinese Six Companies. The document, which relates scores of assaults on unoffending Chinese men and women, declares that the Chinatown police squad is responsible for them, and it names Sergeant of Police Matheson as the chief perpetrator of the outrages.

To the protest of the Chinese merchants are attached eight affidavits, and their pages are filled with accounts of personal assaults on innocent persons. They tell of daily searches for more than six months, without warrant of law, of the forcible ejection of customers from stores, of illegal arrests, of merchants being taken half way to a police station in patrol wagons, and then being kicked out without being taken before a magistrate, of intrusions into women's apartments, of the destruction of property, and even of the rifling of cash drawers.

The protest of the merchants is similar to the protest of the real estate owners in Chinatown that was filed with the police commission on Thursday night, except that the former goes into detail and mentions specific abuses as well as the names of the perpetrators of the outrages.

After setting forth that the business houses of Chinatown have been rehabilitated at great expense and that the financial depression made many of the business ventures unprofitable, the complaint alleges the following:

"That Sergeant of Police Matheson and members of the Chinatown squad, have repeatedly and persistently made unlawful searches of public places of business and private apartments, unlawful assaults upon and arrests of in offensive and unoffending business men."

The first affiant is Frank Haoi, a member of the firm of Sue Wo C&Co., 953 Dupont street. This firm deals in general merchandise, and Haoi says that since February 15th, when Sergeant Matheson took charge of the Chinatown squad, his place of business was searched daily, sometimes two or three times a day; that his goods have been pulled from the shelves, and that he has been subjected to abuse and assaults. On July 14th, about 9:45 o'clock at night, Haoi says, Matheson took a woman into his place and insisted on taking her into a back room, declaring that it was a gambling place and that he wished to show her around. He adds that when his partner, Ho Tin, objected, the latter was assaulted by Matheson. Once, when he asked Matheson for a search warrant, he declares the police officer told him to get one—quick.

The affidavit continues that on August 4th Matheson, accompanied by Sergeant Lane, entered his place and turned the merchandise upside down.

When he objected, he says Lane seized him by the throat, pushed him against the wall, choked him, bumped his head and pulled his nose. They finally told his partners, Ho Tin and Ho Lun, that they would throw them out like bales of hay. On August 5th, says the affidavit, Lane and a squad entered his place and committed similar depredations, all of which are set forth in the document.

The conduct of the police officers was similar in the place of Lang Wo & Co., 867 Dupont street, according to the affidavit of Fong Wing, a member of the firm. It is related that Matheson entered the place nearly every day, and sometimes three times a day; that he threw goods on the floor, tore down curtains, and Fong Wing says that twice he was kicked by a policeman when he objected to his rough conduct in the place. At no time was an arrest made, nor were any lottery tickets found, which was the ostensible excuse for the search.

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What a New Jersey Editor Says
M. T. Lynch, editor of the Phillipsburg, N. J., Daily Post, writes: "I have used many kinds of medicines for coughs and colds in my family but never anything so good as Foley's Honey and Tar. I cannot say too much in praise of it." T. F. Laurin, Owl Drug Store.

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